

## Iowa Department of Corrections

### Organic Farming

1. In 2006, Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) used 49.5 acres for organic farming.
  - 34.5 acres of organic oats/alfalfa
  - 3.0 acres of organic soybeans
  - 12.0 acres of transitional oats/alfalfa
2. IPI harvested 139 big square bales of organic hay, but has had difficulties finding a market for it. The relative feed value of the hay does not meet the quality needed to feed it to dairy livestock. IPI continues to look for a market, but may feed it to the IPI Farm cow herd. IPI learned from this experience that it needs to have irrigation and a high recommendation of fertilizer to increase quality.
3. Organic farms are labor intensive and more costly to operate than traditional farms. Organic farms require certification, and crop sales are highly dependent upon maintaining chemical free from any foreign contamination.
4. IPI organic farming is not anticipated to be a profit-generating farm until at least 2007, when it will be eligible to sell its first organic crop.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:  
**Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders.**

(Office) 515-725-5701 - 510 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 - (FAX) 515-725-5799

[www.doc.state.ia.us](http://www.doc.state.ia.us)